United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- United Nations to participate in forthcoming multilateral Middle East peace conference in Moscow if "invited to attend as a full-fledged participant", according to United Nations spokesman.

- Lebanon asks Security Council to extend mandate of United Nations Interim Force (UNIFIL) in that country for another six months, until end of July.

- Security Council holds consultations to consider the question of Libya.

- Secretary-General appoints Brigadier General Victor Suanzes Pardo of Spain as Chief Military Observer and commander of military division of United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

- Governing Council of International Fund for Agricultural Development to hold fifteenth session in Rome from 21 to 23 January.

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Spokesman François Giuliani said today in a statement that the United Nations would participate in the forthcoming multilateral meeting of the Middle East peace conference, scheduled to take place in Moscow, provided the Organization was "invited to attend as a full-fledged participant".

The statement was made in reply to questions by correspondents about the meeting between Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali and United States Secretary of State James A. Baker, in Mexico on Friday, 17 January, on the role of the United Nations in the search for solution to the Middle East crisis.

Mr. Giuliani said the United Nations had always played "a useful role" in the search for peace in the Middle East and would continue to do so until a just and lasting solution had been found.

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Lebanon has asked the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in that country (UNIFIL) for another six months, until 31 July.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 17 January, the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, Khalil Makkawi, said the presence of UNIFIL continued to remain of utmost necessity to provide assistance and international support for the civilian population faced with "the brutal and arbitrary nature" of the Israeli occupation in the southern part the country. The Lebanese Government called upon the Council to take "new and unprecedented steps" to bring an end to the violence committed by the Israeli authorities and to ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from that area.

Mr. Makkawi noted that there existed a "perfect coordination" between the command of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army and that the two Forces enjoyed a "constructive relationship on the highest level". Consultations were currently under way to ascertain the best way in which the Lebanese Army could take over additional areas from UNIFIL, he said.

In a related development, the Secretary-General has accepted an offer from the Government of Poland to provide the medical unit of UNIFIL. Poland is replacing Sweden, which has been responsible for the medical component of the Force since 1980 and has informed the United Nations that it was unable to maintain that contribution.
(S/23435) (S/23439)

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The Security Council held consultations this afternoon regarding allegations of Libya's involvement in the destruction of Pan American Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland and UTA Flight 776.

The Council was scheduled to convene in a formal meeting later tonight to consider a draft resolution on that topic sponsored by France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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The Secretary-General has informed the Security Council, in a letter dated 16 January, of his intention to appoint Brigadier General Victor Suanzes Pardo of Spain as Chief Military Observer and commander of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

The Brigadier General served as Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), until the mandate of the Force was terminated on Friday, 17 January.
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New strategies for the economic advancement of rural women will be considered be the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), at its fifteenth session to be held in Rome from 21 to 23 January. IFAD is seeking the Governing Council's approval of a long-term, international commitment to confront obstacles facing rural women and to place their concerns at the top of the development agenda.

Also before the Council for approval will be IFAD's programme of work for 1992, amounting to approximately $330 million in project loans and technical assistance grants.

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